

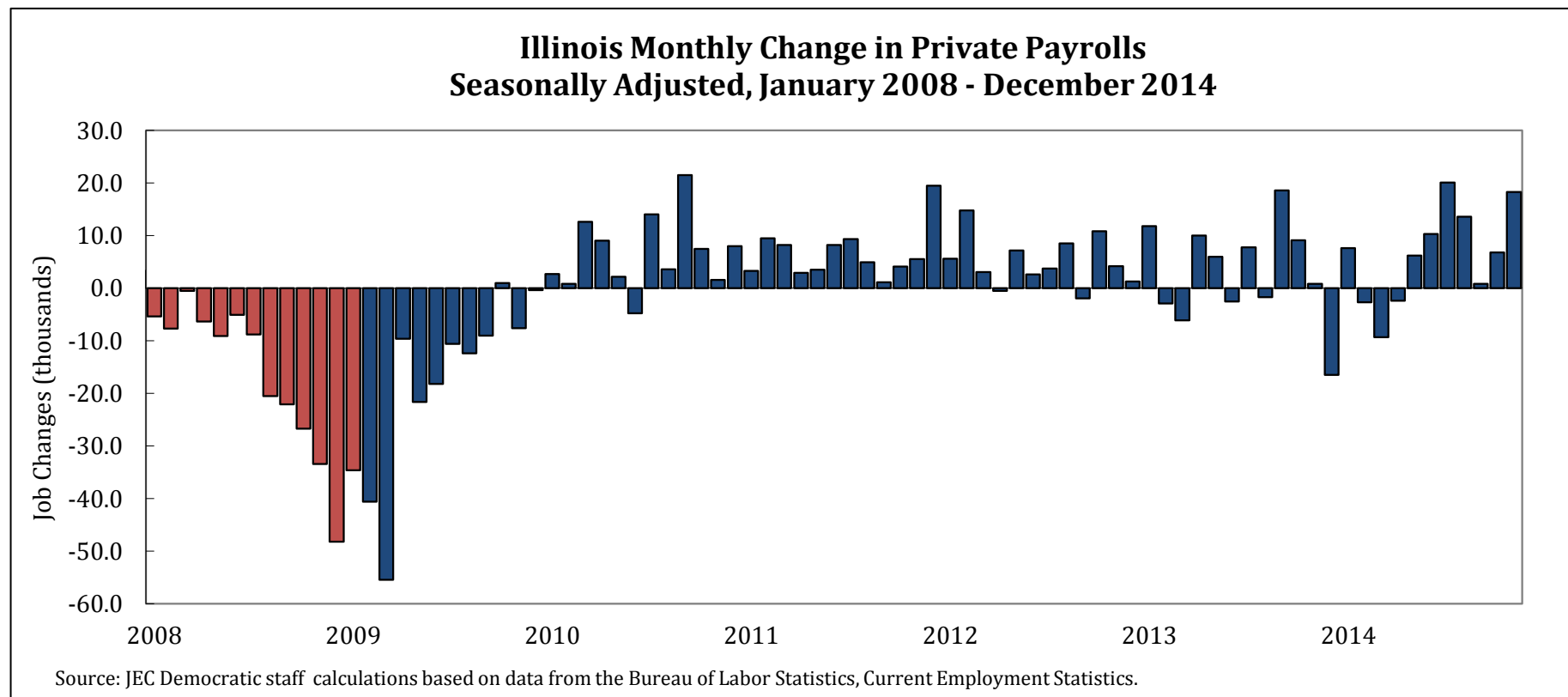


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: ILLINOIS

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through December 2014

JOBS

- In December, private-sector employment in Illinois grew by 18,300 jobs. Over the past year, the Illinois private sector has added 52,800 jobs. This compares with an increase of 52,200 jobs over the 12 months ending in December 2013.
- Illinois private-sector employers have added 319,100 jobs (an increase of 6.7 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Illinois, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (128,000 jobs), education and health services (69,900 jobs) and trade, transportation and utilities (46,900 jobs).
- The Illinois sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (16.3 percent), mining and logging (11.2 percent) and education and health services (8.5 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Illinois was 6.2 percent in December 2014, down 0.2 percentage point from November. The rate is down 2.7 percentage points from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 11.4 percent in January 2010.
- 405,700 Illinois residents were unemployed during December 2014, down from a recent high of 753,500 in January 2010. There are still 38,600 more people unemployed in Illinois than when the recession began.
- In Illinois, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 50,866 during December, down 11.9 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 13.6 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Illinois, exports totaled \$5.7 billion in November and \$67.0 billion over the past year, up 5.6 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Illinois exports over the past 12 months are up 29.5 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Illinois increased by 4.6 percent from the third quarter of 2013 to the third quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 6.8 percent since their recent low in the second quarter of 2012 but remain 15.3 percent below their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Illinois totaled 19,490 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in November 2014, an increase of 4.1 percent from October.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes Illinois, sales of new single-family homes totaled 54,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in December 2014, a decrease of 11.5 percent from November. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased by 3.8 percent to 1,020,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from November to December 2014.

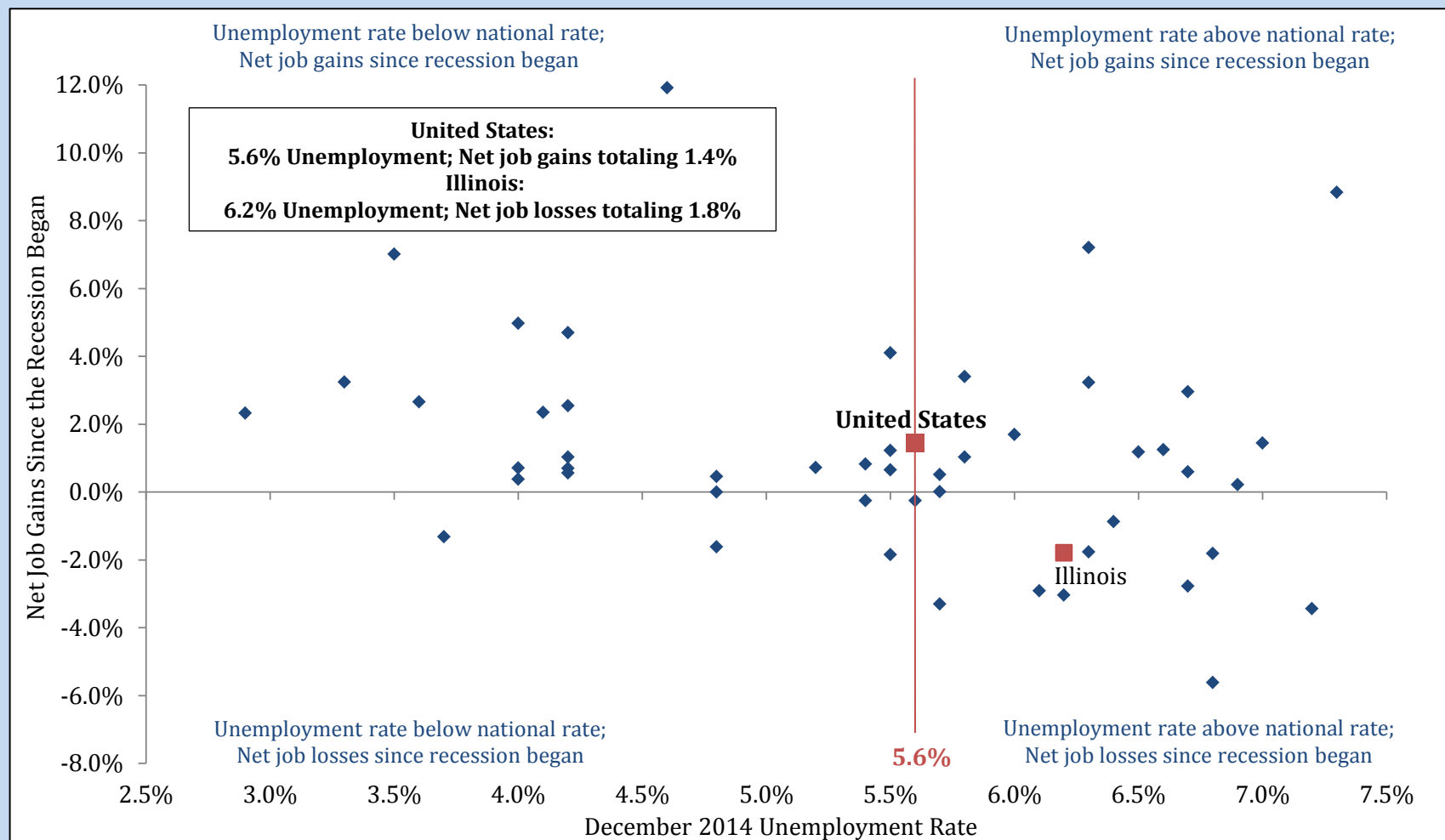
* For Illinois-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Illinois office: <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=3528>

How Does Illinois Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Illinois to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Illinois, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.8% and net job gains totaling 31.5% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Illinois	United States
Unemployment Rate	December 2014	6.2%	5.6%
	December 2013	8.9%	6.7%
	December 2012	9.1%	7.9%
	December 2011	9.4%	8.5%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	7.7%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	9.2%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	13.0%	9.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$ 57,196	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 58,989	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	13.3%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	10.0%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	12.7%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)			

Prepared by the Democratic Staff of the Joint Economic Committee